

# ***BLM News***

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
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## **CALIFORNIA HISTORIC TRAIL CENTER OUT FOR BID**

The long awaited California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center construction project in Elko, Nevada, has been released to potential bidders.

The project began as a grass-roots effort in 1996 when a group of Elko County citizens - Paul Sawyer, Ralph Gamboa, Bob Pierce, and Dale Porter - decided they wanted a Trail Center built in the county. Recognizing that no one entity had sufficient resources to fund such an undertaking, the local community supporters used collaboration and partnership to obtain the financial commitments needed.

The City of Elko committed \$2 million to the project; Elko County committed \$1 million of in-kind services; and the State of Nevada committed \$3 million. In 2000, the Nevada Congressional Delegation led by U.S. Senator Harry Reid sponsored Senate Bill S.2749; Congressman Jim Gibbons sponsored the companion legislation in the House. Thus far, Senator Reid has secured \$8 million in appropriations for the Trail Center project.

The 16,000-square-foot facility will be located about eight miles west of Elko off the Hunter Exit of I-80 on 40 acres of land donated by the William Searle family. The facility will include an access road, parking, and a 20,000-square-foot interpretive plaza.

Bidding for constructing the Trail Center will be open for 45 days. It is expected that the contract will be awarded in July with construction to begin in August. Construction is estimated to take 16 to 18 months and the Trail Center is scheduled to open in August 2008.

Contractors and/or sub-contractors who are interested in bidding on the project can obtain bidding and project specifications on the internet at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov) . Any business wishing to bid need to be registered with the Federal government and can do so on the internet at [www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov) . In addition, most Small Business Offices ([www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)) can assist companies with advice on doing business with the Federal government.

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